

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

September 11, 2015

Vicki Wachino, Director  
Center for Medicaid and State Operations  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Wachino:

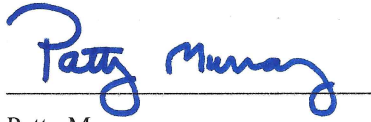
We are writing to express our support for Washington state's application for a section 1115 Medicaid Transformation Demonstration waiver. The purpose of the Demonstration is to provide the regulatory flexibility needed for fundamental change in the state's Medicaid health care delivery system. This means breaking down traditional government "siloes" in order to integrate family and community-driven services and focus on health improvement and recovery. We are excited by this opportunity to strengthen Washington's capacity to improve the quality and affordability of care and improve the health of Washingtonians.

Washington state needs this flexibility now in order to address the needs of an aging population and to establish sustainable spending on the Medicaid program. The Medicaid program now serves a predominantly adult population in addition to children and families. This new group has unmet health care and social service needs that test essential delivery capacity and linkages across clinical and community service providers. Simultaneously, we recognize the need to prepare for the impact of an "age wave," a projected increase between 2010 and 2040 of just over one million Washingtonians aged 65 and older. Many of these individuals have no practical options for covering their long-term service and support needs except the path to impoverishment and subsequent reliance on Medicaid. We must also ensure that key investments in health recognize that many of the factors that impact health are behavioral and environmental. These factors lie outside the clinical health care system, requiring us to be more proactive about managing health and supporting recovery.

With a long tradition of initiatives that have reformed health care delivery, expanded access to coverage and care for vulnerable populations, and embraced value-based purchasing principles, Washington state is well positioned to successfully transform its health system. We look forward to your full consideration of this Medicaid Transformation Demonstration waiver.

cc: MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director, Health Care Authority

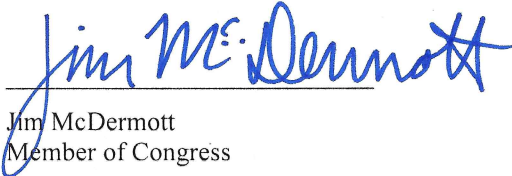
Sincerely,



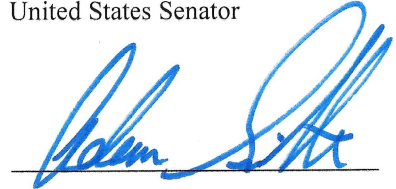
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



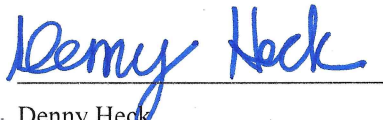
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress